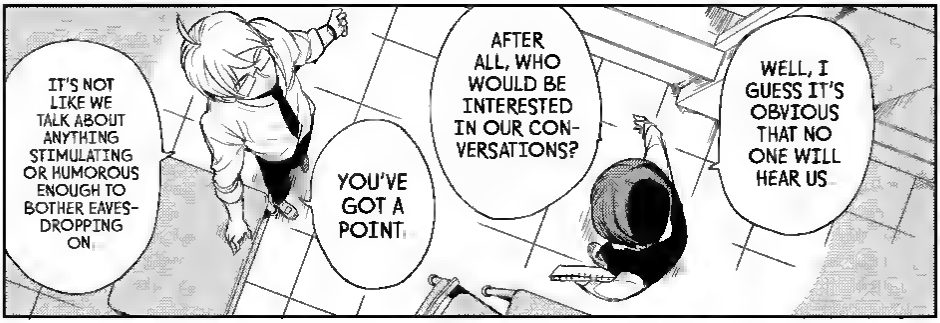
Takahashi-san
is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。

TAKAHASHI-SAN IS LISTENING.

CHAPTER 67: LET ME TELL YOU A FUNNY STORY

SHALL WE CONTINUE?
INDEED
HMPH, AN EXCEPTIONALLY MIKAGE-ESQUE REPLY.
SURE, IF YOU'RE THE TYPE THAT LIKES SUNNY WEATHER.
IF YOU PREFER RAINY DAYS, THIS IS THE OPPOSITE OF PLEASANT.

IN THE CORNER OF THIS CLASS-ROOM!
LET US CONTINUE OUR MINDLESS CHATTER RIGHT HERE, WHERE NO ONE WILL HEAR US!


WELL, I GUESS IT'S OBVIOUS THAT NO ONE WILL HEAR US
AFTER ALL, WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OUR CON-VERSATIONS?
YOU'VE GOT A POINT.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE TALK ABOUT ANYTHING STIMULATING OR HUMOROUS ENOUGH TO BOTHER EAVES-DROPPING ON.

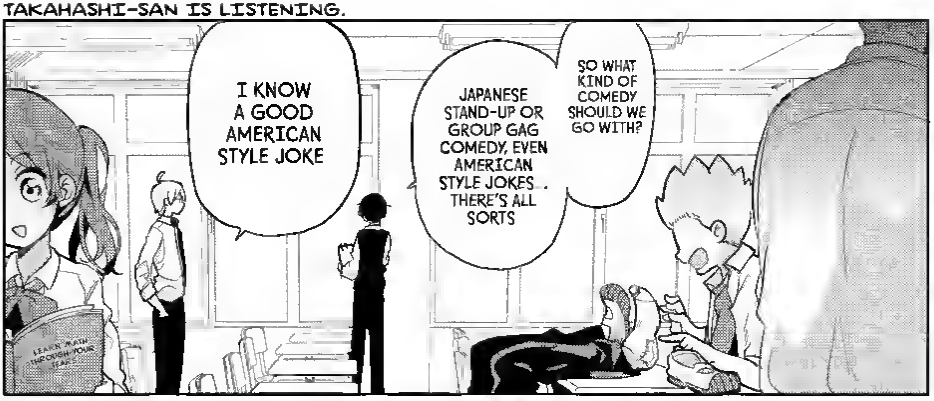
?
A THOUGHT JUST CROSSED MY MIND.

...
NO... WAIT, MI-KAGE.

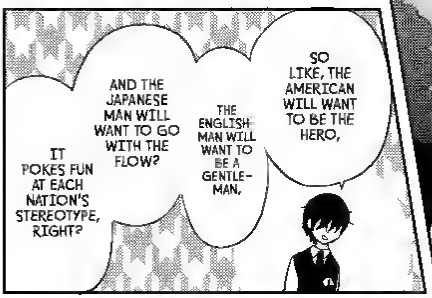
IF WE CONSIDER OURSELVES A PAIR THAT NEVER DISCUSSES ANYTHING INTERESTING OR FUNNY...
DOESN'T THAT MEAN...
...WE'RE FAILURES AS INTELLIGENT LIFEFORMS?
IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU THINK THAT WE SHOULD EXCITE OUR GRAY MATTER TODAY...
...AND STRIVE TO EXCEED OUR USUAL HUMDRUM BANTER?
ARE YOU TRULY FEELING THAT AMBITIOUS?
YOU CATCH ON QUICKLY!
IN JAPAN, THERE'S A WISE SAYING THAT GOES LIKE THIS:
"TO MAKE INTERESTING AN OTHERWISE BORING WORLD...USE LOVE AND JOY!"*
LOVE AND JOY!
INDEED. AND THAT'S WHY...

*NOTE: NARA IS REFERENCING A UNFINISHED POEM WRITTEN BY SHINSAKU TAKASUGI ON HIS DEATHBED. "LOVE AND JOY" IS NARA'S OWN INTERJECTION.

TODAY WE SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO MAKE THE CONSCIOUS CHOICE...
...TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING CURIOUS AND DIFFERENT!
YEAH.
YOU'RE AMAZING, NARA-KUN
YOU'RE EMBRACING EVERYTHING WE LEARNED IN KANSAI.
YOU'RE REALLY OWNING UP TO YOUR COMEDIC ROLE
IF I WERE TO COMPARE YOUR SPIRIT TO A MOUNTAIN,
IT WOULD BE EVEN GREATER THAN MOUNT HOTAKADAKE, THE SECOND BIGGEST MOUNTAIN IN JAPAN!
BUT I CAN'T SURPASS MOUNT FUJI, HUH?
IN ANY EVENT, I'M IN.
IF THERE WERE SOMEONE LISTENING IN ON OUR CONVERSATIONS...
LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING SO HILARIOUS THAT THEY BUST A GUT IN HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER.
AND INADVERTENTLY REVEAL THEIR HIDDEN LOCATION
YES, WE'LL MAKE SURE THEY CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH OUT LOUD HERE!
I GUESS IT ACTUALLY MAKES ME PRETTY HAPPY TO SEE YOU SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS.


I KNOW A GOOD AMERICAN STYLE JOKE
JAPANESE STAND-UP OR GROUP GAG COMEDY, EVEN AMERICAN STYLE JOKES... THERE'S ALL SORTS
SO WHAT KIND OF COMEDY SHOULD WE GO WITH?

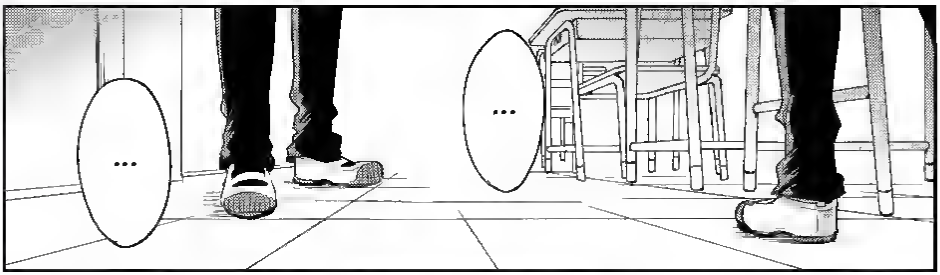
A NATION-ALITY JOKE
OH.


IT POKES FUN AT EACH NATION'S STEREOTYPE, RIGHT?
AND THE JAPANESE MAN WILL WANT TO GO WITH THE FLOW?
THE ENGLISH-MAN WILL WANT TO BE A GENTLE-MAN.
SO LIKE, THE AMERICAN WILL WANT TO BE THE HERO,

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A SHIP THAT WAS SINKING.
IT WAS CARRYING PASSENGERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
THIS INCLUDED AN AMERICAN, AN ENGLISHMAN, AND A JAPANESE PERSON.

INDEED.
ON THIS SHIP, SOMEONE HAD TO JUMP OVERBOARD OR IT WOULD SINK FOR SURE.
AND THEN...

...SOME-THING OR OTHER HAPPENED...
AND THEY ALL JUMPED OVER-BOARD!
OH YEAH? SO THAT'S HOW IT GOES.
FIN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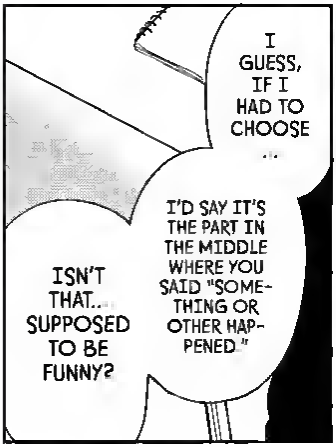
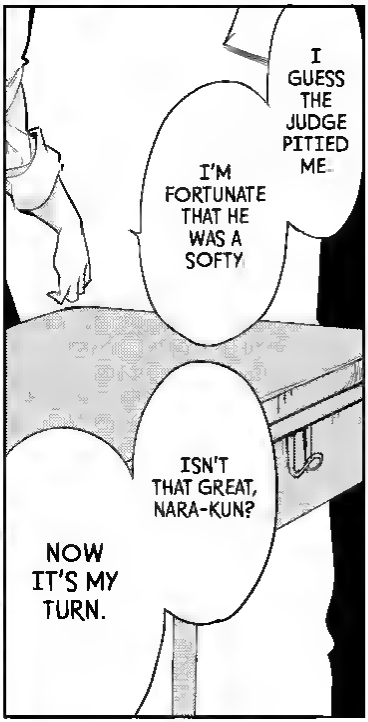

I GUESS, IF I HAD TO CHOOSE...
I'D SAY IT'S THE PART IN THE MIDDLE WHERE YOU SAID "SOME-THING OR OTHER HAP-PENED."
ISN'T THAT... SUPPOSED TO BE FUNNY?

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
MIKAGE!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT THAT STORY?!

I WANTED THE AMUSEMENT TO FLOW LIKE A ROLLER COASTER.
IS THAT RIGHT? WELL, YOU SUCCEED-ED.
THE TEMPO WOULD'VE BEEN OFF.
LIKE, IF YOU'D DONE EVERYTHING IN ORDER
IT'S LIKE YOU SHORTENED IT SO MUCH THAT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HAPPENED

YOU'RE RATING BY STARS?!
IF I RATED THAT STORY FOR THE MICHELIN GUIDE OF FUNNY THINGS, I WOULD HAVE TO GIVE IT ONE STAR
HOW-EVER...

SO, THE SHIP IS SINKING,
THE THEME IS A LAUGH OUT LOUD, AMERICAN STYLE JOKE, RIGHT?
AND SOMEONE HAS TO JUMP OVER-BOARD TO SAVE IT.


I GUESS THE JUDGE PITIED ME.
I'M FORTUNATE THAT HE WAS A SOFTY
ISN'T THAT GREAT, NARA-KUN?
NOW IT'S MY TURN.

...OR SO EVERYONE THOUGHT.
HUH?
AS IF SOME-THING LIKE THAT WOULD HAPPEN.
WHA?
A FALLEN HERO...
A WILD GENTLE-MAN...
AND A JAPANESE MAN WHO CAN'T TAKE A HINT
W-WAIT!

WHERE WAS I SUPPOSED TO LAUGH OUT LOUD?!
OR DO YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO LISTEN UNTIL THE END?!
Coming Soon...
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT IS FAR TOO BRUTAL FOR ME EVEN TO SPEAK.
SO HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET TO THE PART WHERE I LAUGH?
HMM...
S-SO YOU TRIED TO MAKE IT FUNNY ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN STYLE, MIKAGE?
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY THAT MAKING SOMETHING LAUGH-OUT-LOUD FUNNY, I THINK I SHOULD ALWAYS TELL STORIES IN MY OWN STYLE
I THINK IT'S BORING TO RETELL A STORY THAT ALREADY EXISTS.

NARA-KUN, DO YOU THINK THAT MAYBE..

ABOUT TWO AND A HALF HOURS?
SO IT'S AN EPIC?
THAT MEANS THIS STORY WILL CARRY INTO OUR CONVERSATION TOMORROW.
THAT'S A BIT MUCH...

NO, THAT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE.
...THE TWO OF US TRYING TO TALK EXPLICITLY ABOUT FUNNY THINGS...
...IS ACTUALLY LESS INTERESTING THAN WHAT WE NORMALLY TALK ABOUT?
YOU THINK US JUST TALKING IS FUNNY?
THERE'S NO WAY.
DON'T TRY TO DIVORCE YOURSELF FROM REALITY.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO INVENT A TECHNIQUE TO MAKE OUR REGULAR CONVERSATIONS HUMOROUS.
A TECHNIQUE TO MAKE US FUNNIER?
SCRATCH SCRATCH
HOW ABOUT THIS?

FOCUS ...
...AND CONCENTRATE YOUR FUNNY POWER JUST BELOW YOUR NAVEL.
FUNNY POWER
FUNNY WORDS
THEN JUST RELEASE IT.
LIKE KI ENERGY?
SO RATHER THAN A TECHNIQUE, I JUST NEED TO FOCUS MY KI...
IN ANY EVENT, I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT.
YES, GIVE IT A SHOT.
YOU ALWAYS DO, DON'T YOU?
THIS IS ALL FOR THE SAKE OF THE ULTIMATE AMERICAN STYLE JOKE.
YOU'RE REALLY STUCK ON THAT, HUH?
HAAA!
YEAH?
DESPITE YOUR BEST EFFORTS, YOU DON'T LOOK ANY STRONGER.
...

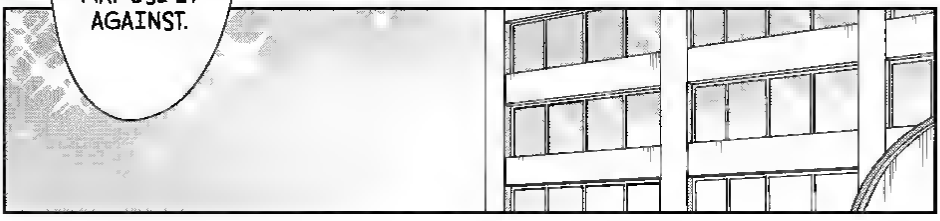
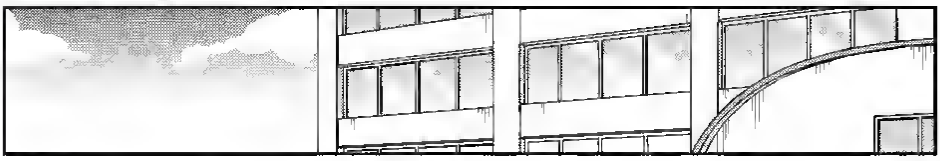
E-EVEN I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE...
...BUT IT REALLY FEELS LIKE I'M OVER-FLOWING WITH IDEAS!
SHOCKING NEWS.
SO THIS KIND OF THING CAN REALLY HAPPEN
ALL I WAS LACKING WAS GUSTO!
ANYBODY WHO DARES TO TAKE ON AMERICAN COMEDY MUST OWN IT!
IT TAKES TRUE ENTHU-SIASM!
I FEEL AS THOUGH IT'S GOING TO BURST FORTH FROM MY CHEST!
JUST STANDING HERE IS TOO MUCH!
IT'S AS THOUGH MY PREVIOUSLY OVERBUR-DENED BRAIN HAS BEEN SET FREE.
IT'S JUST GOING TO SPRING FROM MY MOUTH AS PURE COMEDY GOLD!

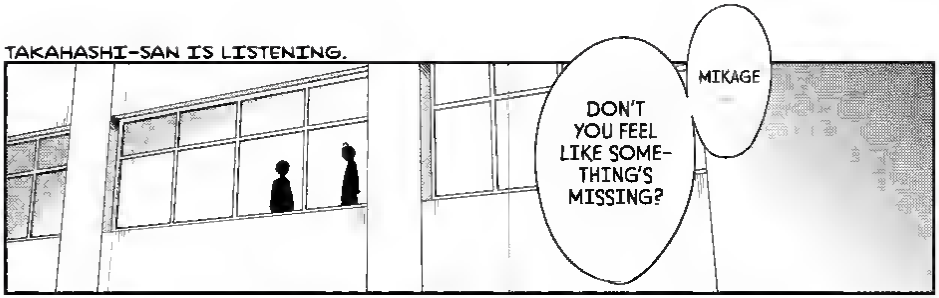
I'M GOING TO RE-LEASE IT, MIKAGE!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP LAUGHING OUT LOUD.
ALL WHO WITNESS IT WILL BE IN AN UPROAR.
YOU'LL LAUGH YOUR-SELF INTO CONVUL-SIONS
THE BE-ALL-END-ALL, PENULTIMATE AMERICAN STYLE JOKE...
I'M ABOUT TO... LET IT RIP!
ARE YOU PREPARED?! THERE'S NO RUNNING NOW! I'M GOING TO SAY IT!

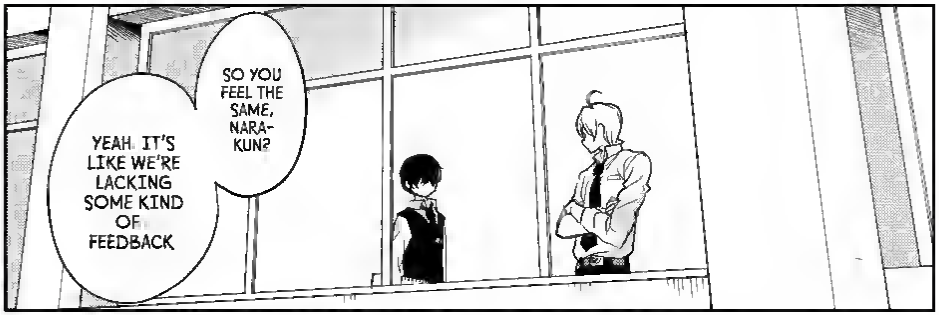
WH..
WHY DID YOU STOP ME?!
?!
WAIT, NARA-KUN.
SLAP
WHIP
NARA-KUN.
I KNOW...
I SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING
THE JOKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO TELL IS SURELY OVER-WHELMING IN ITS HILARITY
LISTEN
TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
THINK ABOUT YOUR AUDIENCE FOR A SECOND.

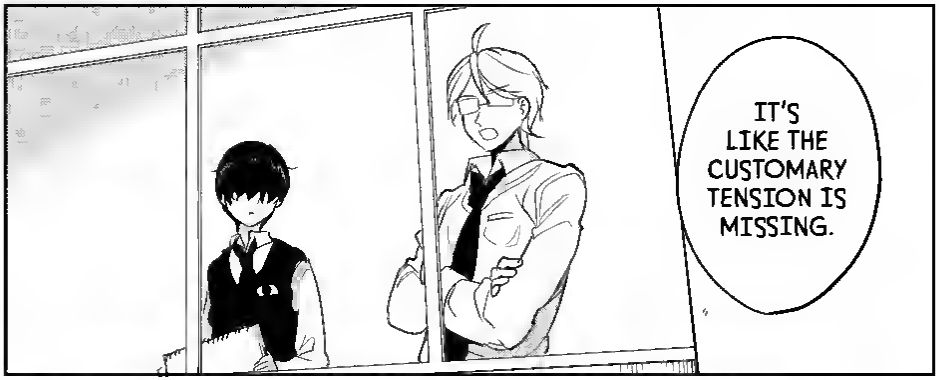
YOUR JOKE WOULD BE TOO FUNNY FOR THIS WORLD!
WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO LAUGH THEMSELVES TO DEATH?!
!
WAS I REALLY... ABOUT TO END SOMEONE'S LIFE?!

LAUGHING ONESELF TO DEATH IS INDEED A PAINFUL WAY TO GO!
YOUR JOKE IS FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO USE ON JUST ANYONE
YOU'RE BETTER OFF SEALING AWAY THAT WEAPON OF LAUGH OUT LOUD DESTRUCTION.
S-SO THIS IS HOW IT FEELS
...TO STRUGGLE UNDER THE BURDEN OF IMMENSE POWER...

WE'VE COME TO A MOST ONEROUS CONCLU-SION.
A POWER THAT'S JUST TOO STRONG ...
WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHO WE MAY USE IT AGAINST.




MIKAGE
DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING?


SO YOU FEEL THE SAME, NARA-KUN?
YEAH. IT'S LIKE WE'RE LACKING SOME KIND OF FEEDBACK.


IT'S LIKE THE CUSTOMARY TENSION IS MISSING.

YES, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THINGS THE SAME WAY WE ALWAYS DO.

EVERY-
THING WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
NORMAL.
EVERY-
THING
WAS
NORMAL,
WASN'T
IT?
HEY.
YEAH
?
IS IT
TRUE SHE
REALLY ISN'T
COMING
BACK?

AFTER ALL, SHE'S SO MOTIVATED THAT SHE EVEN QUIT SCHOOL.
I'M PRETTY SURE.
YEAH.
YOU MEAN ENA-CHII?
BUT I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL...
IT'S PRETTY LONELY KNOWING I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HER ANYMORE.
DO NOT BLOCK
ON PED

English Digital Edition
Chapter 067

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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